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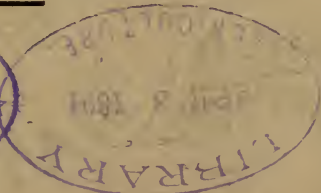


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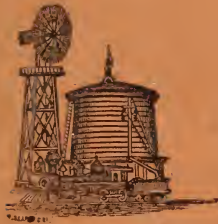
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THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MARYLAND, AND FOR TEN YEARS THE ONLY ONE.

AND NEW FARM.

Vol. XXVIII.

BALTIMORE, March 1891.

No. 3.

A GOLDEN RIDDLE.

BY MARY B. SLEIGHT.

The husbandman one golden morn a white seed dropped among the corn.
Beneath the summer's mystic spell it burst ere long the prisoning shell
And 'twixt the brown loam's rifted crust its emerald leaflets upward thrust.

Through lengthening days of rain and shine, fast grew and thrived the generous vine,
And 'neath the changing skies held up for sun and dew its golden cup,
Till in its veins these forces fine had wrought a mystery divine,
And given to the world a boon fair as the golden hearted moon.

The ruddy glow against the mould, outvied the fabled crock of gold;
Each day a riper hue it gained, and, while the seasons waxed and waned,
Tall knights with gleaming lance and sword guarded with ceaseless watch and ward
Through midnight hush and noonday heat the golden treasure at their feet.

And when the crops were garnered in, and granary and barn and bin
With wealth of goodlier gold were stored than that which greedy misers hoard,
When glad lips sang the harvest home 'neath lowly roof and lordly dome,
And kith and kin, from great to least, had gathered for the harvest feast,
Ah, richer than the rarest wine this yellow fruitage of the vine,
Transmuted by the housewife's skill to golden disk with flaky frill.

No fairer fruit the fields afford, no choicer viand decks the board,
And grateful hearts their praises lift to him who gives the golden gift.

—*Harpers Bazar.*

For the Maryland Farmer.

OUR NEW FARM, XIX.

RENOVATING BARREN SAND.

It will be remembered by many of the readers of the MARYLAND FARMER that last Fall I was giving a sort of history of our new farm, and how I worked on it, and the various events of our farm life.

My work was interrupted unexpectedly by several changes, but now I propose to renew the thread of my narrative, and to tell further of my doings.

Well, during the first year I observed that about ten acres in the Northwestern field, which was part of the sheep pasture was of a very desolate, sandy character.

In talking with Mr. Camden one day, he said :

"I can remember, Mr. Green, when that barren corner would grow almost any crop that could be planted there."

I looked upon the statement at the time with some astonishment ; for there it was, little more than a sandy plain, so destitute of green that even the sheep avoided it.

However, I thought if it ever was in such a condition it could be brought there again; so one day I took my spade and walked over there to examine.

Let me describe the land just as I found it on that warm summer day.

On the top the sand was almost white and appeared as if the wind could easily scatter it. Putting in the spade, the first four inches seemed very sandy with a slight sprinkling of darker color. The next four inches was darker and somewhat compact as if it had not been disturbed by the plow for some time.

By this time I had cleared a space, say

three feet square, to the depth of about eight inches. I thrust down the spade a full length and turned up the ground—still it was sand; but evidently more loamy than the first eight inch layer.

Having cleaned off this second layer, I rested a little and looked over the field dubiously. I was very warm. I flourished my handkerchief and said to myself, "No good." I was resting on the spade, and I placed my foot on it; it sank down about three inches and stopped.

This was a revelation—it rested me at once, and I began to throw off the sandy loam; I had reached clay—a mixed white and yellow clay. I had read enough to know that with such a subsoil, the sandy loam above it—from sixteen to twenty inches deep—could be made as rich as any garden and would retain whatever was judiciously given it.

I afterward learned that much of the sandy soil all through this region was of this character; but at this time I did not stop to meditate on this subject. I went over that ten acres and at different points threw out a few spades of sand until I could see the clay subsoil, throwing it back with the spade or my feet after satisfying myself that the clay was there.

I don't profess to be very knowing; but I then resolved I would try what could be done with that ten acres of barren sand.

I called at once for Charley and old roan to give me some help. I did not have the tools necessary; but I commenced by running with my one horse plough twice in the same furrow. I easily went five inches deep in the sand the first round; but not over three inches deep the second round. But we perse-

vered and after about two weeks patient labor, allowing for interruptions and other work, we had turned up about eight inches of that soil, and it certainly looked encouraging.

At different points, in September, I scattered some clover seed, some oats and some rye, and brushed them in with the loaded top of a pine tree. The oats and the rye in some cases made a very feeble appearance but the clover did not come at all. Even the other was yellow and sickly and did not even tempt the sheep to visit that spot.

What should I do? I had but little money that I could afford to spend there, and it was getting too late to hope to accomplish much before cold weather. I accordingly resolved to let it rest till the next spring.

You may be sure my neighbors had many a laugh at my expense because of my labor and apparent failure and I joined heartily in the laugh myself.

Mr. Burns said one day:

"You beat us all in sweet corn, Mr. Green, but how about that sandy lot."

And Mr Camden who was standing by, joined in the laugh that followed, and said.

"I told Mr. Green what I had seen growing on that field years ago, and I suppose that must have made him think something would grow there now."

"Oh, that was before it had been tobacco killed" said Mr. Burns. "It has been cropped to death by tobacco and aint worth anything now."

I let them laugh, but I had seen the clay and I was not to be discouraged so easily although I said nothing.

During that winter on one of my visits

to Baltimore I had a long talk with a fertilizer firm about that lot. They seemed to be confident that their fertilizer would bring a big crop on it. I told them finally that if they would supply me with fertilizer I would pay the freight on it, do all the work necessary and give them as pay the first year's crop entire and one half of the second year's crop.

After considerable talk and consultation they concluded to accept my proposition and we reduced it to writing at once. They were to give me ten tons of fertilizer and I was to put it on that ground. I was to harrow it in thoroughly and plant it with three acres of corn, three acres of rye, two acres of oats, two acres of barley. With all except the corn I was to put in clover seed.

I said nothing about it to my neighbors; but very early the next spring, before work could be done anywhere else on the farm, I began ploughing that field. Many a joke they had for me the next Sunday morning after meeting, but I kept my own counsel only joining in the good natured laughter.

When the car load of fertilizer arrived and load after load was hauled and spread upon that barren ten acres of ploughed land, some of my kind friends took occasion to remonstrate with me quite seriously, assuring me that such land would not retain the fertilizer and that it was a waste of labor and money.

And now about the result.

The oats and the rye were excellent crops—the barley and the corn were fair crops, but nothing to brag about. Still the produce more than paid the firm for their ten tons of fertilizer when

delivered to their order in Baltimore.

They were so well satisfied that they voluntarily offered me five tons additional for the second year, and as they said to pay for their half of the second crop. Knowing that they were already over paid I did not hesitate to accept this generosity. They went, however, even further than I expected, for they sent it to my station, freight paid.

I put down the three acres which was in corn the year previous in rye and clover, giving a liberal supply of the fertilizer, and distributed the balance over the rest of the field.

This year such a seven acres of clover as was on that sandy land it would have done your eyes good to behold and the rye was a splendid crop.

I cut the first crop of clover and allowed the second crop to mature and fall on the ground, first asking this privilege of my friends who supplied the fertilizer.

When I came to give them their half for the second year, I was asked to look at my account on their books. They had charged me with the retail price of the fertilizers and credited me with the cash received and they handed me \$43.25 which they said was due me.

This was very unexpected and at first I objected; but they insisted that it was right, and so I finally took the forty-three dollars and twenty-five cents and resolved that should go to Mrs. Green.

Then said one of these generous men :

"Now, Mr. Green, you know just what our fertilizer has done on your barren land, will you have any objection to stating this fact over your name."

I sat down and wrote them a certifi-

cate warranted by the above facts and you may see it in their circular signed with my name in full—John Green.

That night when I went back home and told my dear wife of these good friends, and placed that money in her hands as her very own, the tears came into her eyes, from a heart full of happiness, that there were such good and generous and kindly men in business in our city of Baltimore. They did indeed prove that the best qualities of manhood was still flourishing in the midst of the cares of our busy life.

The next year I took one crop of clover from that field and the second crop I ploughed under early in the fall and since that time I have one of the best ten acres of sandy loam to be found in that whole neighborhood.

My neighbors no longer say :

"Mr. Green, how about that barren soil, over in the sheep pasture?" They look at the nicely fenced field with its rich crops of vegetables, and the wagon loads that pass down the road to the depot, and shake their heads and say :

"Tell us, Mr. Green, how you brought up that land, won't you!"

And when I tell them they again shake their heads; but only one or two will venture themselves to make the trial. Those who have tried one acre and found the success, however, have learned the lesson which will do them and their children after them much good.

To be continued.

If the end of a duck's breast-bone is pliable it is generally found to be young and tender when cooked.

**COUNTRY LIFE AS EDUCATOR—
UNCONSIDERED WAYS IN
WHICH THE FARM PAYS.**

BY CHAS. H. CRANDELL.

The farmer has better chance for "all-round" education and accomplishment than the follower of any other vocation; so many increased avenues of enjoyment radiating from him.

Health and a good farm! If young men in the country appreciated these two things, and knew the trivial nature of all that these two do not comprehend, how slow they would be to exchange the country for the city life! What is wealth without good digestion! What are fame and travel compared with the secure enjoyment of a rural home, bearing a thousand touches of adornment and improvement virtually made with one's own hands? The country home is a homemade affair, is easy-fitting; has grown up about you. But to the city house you must adapt yourself; fit into its narrow walls. You cannot stretch the brick boundary nor widen the view in that narrow, stony street. In the one case you make your shell, like the chambered nautilus; in the other case, the shell makes you.

The intelligent farmer knows something of all trades and of a good many sciences.

Robert Bonner hires men to beat the iron, pare the hoof and drive the nails; but he is the greatest authority on horse-shoeing in the country.

So with many other trades: to a considerable extent a farmer may become his own musician, architect, carpenter, painter, plumber, tinker, surveyor, pho-

tographer, chemist, botanist, physician. It will not pay for him to rely on himself for all such services, but when the need arises he can be prepared for it. And how much greater is the pleasure taken in a porte cochere added to your house with your own hands; how more valuable is the photograph or sketch you made and framed in the beautiful grain of the wood grown on the farm! Is not the botanical or geological collection made by your girl or boy worth all the treasures in the city museums?

The old farmer knows a great deal of chemistry, botany, geology, natural philosophy, astronomy.

How did he learn it? Why, here a little and there a little. He can see more now in a half-mile drive through the country than can the city man who talks so glibly. He can read soil with his eye, by the stone cropping out; by the grass, trees or crops on it. He knows what crop will grow best there, whether or not the land is well-drained, what layers of clay, gravel or rock he is likely to strike if he digs a well. That is geology, practical geology.

Just so, he knows, or may know, what manures best benefit certain crops of fruit-trees, and what foods produce most fat, or muscle, or milk. What is that but chemistry?

He walks through fields or woods and names the flowers, weeds, trees, birds or animals; knows the use or habit of each; knows what timber is toughest, what lasts well in the ground, what under cover; what plant is poisonous, what medicinal. We see that the old farmer is his own botanist, zoologist, druggist.

He uses the siphon, the screw, the in-

clined plane, the lever, the scores of appliances of natural philosophy every year. He is surely a natural philosopher. And, then, he keeps track of the moon and reads the heavens better than many of the almanacs and weather prophets; when he says it is going to storm, or be cold, or be hot, look out! he's "posted."

These facts ought to encourage the farmer, make him realize that he does know considerable of the sciences, many things that the professors are ignorant of, and it should lead him to study more in books to see what else is being illustrated free of cost right before his eyes in nature's laboratory.

A farmer should know, and generally does know, considerable of all these sciences, also entomology, physiology, pomology, engineering, political economy, etc., big names that comprehend many simple facts. Let the farmer realize all this and hold up his head.

Finally, let him remember that the country is not only a refuge for health, virtue, and religion, but for the political conscience. As the farmer casts his influence, so the nation is swayed. The common-sense of the farmers is the court of last appeal, when the question of sustaining a war or a great change of a policy comes up. To be prepared for this responsibility, let farmers think for themselves, and read widely, then discuss. Form reading clubs, so you can see the leading magazines and newspapers. Send your most sensible farmers to the Legislature and to Congress. In these and many other ways you will learn to conclude, and the whole country with you, that the farm pays.—*N.Y. Tribune.*

POTATOES.

One of the earliest and most profitable crops for this section is the potato. Let the ground be rich and plow deep—the Oliver Chilled Plow, the patent on which has expired and which can now be had at a very reasonable price, will do the work. Use in the rows hard wood ashes, either quick or leached, well mingled in the soil. Cut the seed from rather large potatoes and about two strong eyes to the piece. Plant four or five inches deep. Once a week harrow the ground until the plants are well up, then use the cultivator. Keep free from all weeds. Knock off the beetles every morning by hand and destroy them. If too much work to do this, spray the vines; but the former method is the best. Harvest before the mud of fall rains comes. Put in a cool but frost-proof potato cellar. Keep posted on the market and take advantage of it.

DEATH OF EMINENT MEN.

The death of Senator Wilson of our own State so suddenly and unexpectedly is another of the serious losses for our country. The words spoken in the Senate are not overdrawn as applied to his character and work in the past.

Among the sudden deaths, also, was that of Secretary Windom and it will be worthy of attention and thought that quite a number have latterly died under precisely these circumstances, viz: After publicly speaking in an earnest and happy vein.

Entered as second class matter at Baltimore, Md.

— THE —
MARYLAND FARMER

— AND —
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One cent a mile is large pay for passengers on Rail Roads.

Keep it before the people: One cent a mile is enough.

Reminiscence—A Cow's record.

The Editor of the MARYLAND FARMER, when a youth—fifty-five years ago—attended boarding school in the town of

Pawlings, Dutchess Co., N. Y. He remembers many of the characteristics of the country and the woods, hills, valleys and fields are still fresh in his memory. He is pleased therefore to place here the greatest milk and butter record of the world as coming from the town of Pawlings. The Holstein Cow, Pauline Paul, for the year ending February 7, gave 1153 lbs. 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs. of butter from 18,669 lbs. 9 ozs. of milk. This is about 200 pounds greater than any previously known record of butter.

REMOVAL.

The Principal office of the MARYLAND FARMER will hereafter be at 887 North Howard St., opposite the 5th Regiment Armory, Baltimore, Md., where we shall be happy to see our friends who may have occasion to visit the city.

For the convenience of those whose business is mostly in the lower section of the city, we have made arrangements to have a branch office at the old stand, with E. Whitman, Sons & Co., 27 East Pratt Street, who will receive subscriptions and orders in our behalf.

IMMIGRATION.

Were the Editor of the MARYLAND FARMER a young man—he is almost sixty-five now—with the knowledge and the experience he now has of the various locations and possibilities of this country, there is no place which would have for him more attraction than Southern Maryland.

The climate is unexceptionable; troubled neither with the cold of the

cold of the North, nor the heat and malaria of the South.

The soil is of the very best character for easy cultivation, and capable of yielding the very largest crops.

Markets are the largest and the best to be found, and are of easy access both in winter and summer.

The land is very cheap and neighborhoods are generally of such a character that intercourse is agreeable and pleasant, with all the religious and educational privileges good.

The people are given to hospitality, are helpful in every way, and life could be made a season of real happiness as well as of honest and well rewarded toil.

Seeking a contented and a happy life, with its necessities supplied, its comforts and luxuries in a measure sure, no better place than Southern Maryland can be discovered on this continent.

THE GENERAL OUTLOOK.

We perceive that several strong organs religious as well as secular, make mention of Senator Stanford of California, as the next candidate for President. It is based upon his position that the people shall be supplied plentifully with money by the general government in every legitimate way.

The people evidently need more money than is at this time in circulation and the various free coinage schemes, the schemes to issue government loans, etc., are the outgrowth of this need.

One phase of this government loan scheme is very plausible, viz: that the income from government loans would

easily become sufficient, without other tax or tariff, to support an economic administration of the government.

Undoubtedly the farmers, more than any other class, have suffered from the scarcity of money and the difficulty of obtaining it, except by great usurious and therefore ruinous rates. The champion who will bring them legitimate means of obtaining money cheaply, and thus insuring their prosperity, will certainly have a very large following.

We see that the *New York Evangelist* gives nearly six columns to an interview with Senator Stanford on this and kindred subjects; to which is added about two columns of editorial in a generally approving strain of comment, although giving voice to some imaginary objections to the scheme.

FAMOUS FARMS.

The above is the title of a very readable article on the farms and the farming of three millionaires, which appeared in the *Public Ledger*, Phila., March 12th.

1. "Wootton"—the country seat of Geo. W. Childs is described as a magnificent place, the extra produce of which is devoted by its owner to charitable purposes.

2. "Chesterbrook"—the 300 acre stock farm of A. J. Cassatt is described with its many buildings, its hundreds of fine cattle, sheep and horses and its pleasant surroundings.

3. "Santa Anita"—Passing from these Pennsylvania farms, the writer gives us a glimpse of this California rancho of E. J. Baldwin, devoting extra space to his description. It is the only one which

he distinctly places in the catalogue of profitable farming.

Of course these millionaires are not dependent for their success in money making upon their farming and that they can have as beautiful improvements and as complete equipments as heart can desire regardless of income from the land is a fact present to all who read concerning their farming.

It is of course pleasant to read of such; but it is hardly as profitable as to know the process by which a plodding farmer made \$250 from this certain acre of ground, \$75 from this other or \$625 from another, all of which we can trace and lay up in our minds for our own profit.

THE FARMER'S GOVERNOR.

The farmers of Maryland should not fail in the choice of a candidate who will espouse fully the principles of retrenchment in expenditures, the equalization of taxes, the diminution of office holders, the general extinguishment of the extravagance which is now eating up their substance.

It would be folly to remain in any party which will not give a candidate pledged to the principles so generally advocated by them.

The Governor must not only be the farmer's friend; he must be willing to actively recommend their measures and use his influence towards making them the laws of the State.

The Alliance has shown itself elsewhere to have great power among the people and every farmer should remember he is one of those who are wielding this power.

Pick out the man who will do your work the best and make that man your governor for the next term. Use your influence now, so that the two great parties may be careful to select men who are of the right stripe.

We shall have more to say on this subject in the future; but not from any political standpoint. We shall speak only from the point of view of the farmer.

QUINCE CULTURE.

When good quinces bring four dollars a bushel as they did last fall, it would seem worth the farmer's attention to plant a few Quince trees.

Get the very best fruit, then watch the trees keeping down all the fungus, disease knots, etc.

The soil should be good, moist, and at least as rich as productive corn land.

The land should be cultivated, but not deeply, as that would interfere with the roots.

When carried to market, only the fair and smooth fruit should be expected to bring a high price.

WEALTH AND TAXES.

We often hear it said that the wealthy men of the country, in one way or another manage to avoid the payment of taxes. We are inclined to believe it to be true, also. They have the best opportunity of investment in State or governmental securities, in mortgages, ground rents, etc., which are free from tax, to say nothing of the natural inclination to evade the actual exhibition of one's

property to the assessors. The *New England Farmer* says:

SAD STATE OF MORALS.

If personal property holders are so slow in moral rectitude, as to be willing to perjure themselves before God and man, to save paying their just share of taxes, then, what is usually called the "leaders of society," are mere "states-prison birds running at large in the community," in a moral sense, at least.

EQUALIZING TAXES.

Only one way can be found for making the burden of taxation at all equitable and that is, to have nothing legally exempt. As long as the laws are such as to provide for the exemption of certain property, it is of course right to take advantage of them; but the very principle of exemption is wrong. It gives to certain classes advantages—which, in a government such as ours, is radically opposed to universal equality before the laws.

GRIFFITH, TURNER & CO. FIRE.

We are sorry to have to inform our readers that Messrs. Griffith, Turner & Co., dealers in Fertilizers, Agricultural Implements and Seeds at 207 & 209 North Paca Street, were visited by fire on the 20th inst., and their loss was about \$9000. They have been quite constant advertisers in the *MARYLAND FARMER*, and our friends will remember them. It will not interrupt their business to any great length of time. They have also a branch store on Light St., near Pratt.

Garden Seeds.

Get the very best possible seeds for the garden—the second best are of no account. If you would have prime articles on your own table a very few cents extra for seed will supply them first class. Don't hesitate to pay enough to have the best. An experienced man looking across a garden will tell the quality of seed sown in it. Every plant carries on its leaf the words "good," "bad," "best," "indifferent," as to the seed you have used.

ARBOR DAY.

The 8th day of April will be Arbor Day. Let the planting of at least one tree be considered a duty on that day.

We would propose that the tree thus planted should be some kind of fruit tree, and let it be by the road side, that it may be free for the passing traveler. We would be glad to have every highway throughout our country lined with fruit trees for the benefit of the public. If this should be the avowed purpose of Arbor Day it would become one of the grandest institutions of this century.

TO ADVERTISERS.

While we do not pretend to have an enormous circulation, yet it is in reality respectable in point of numbers and to a class of responsible and intelligent readers who appreciate good things when presented to them properly, and generally purchase whatever they believe of value to them.

It is on this account that prominent firms in Baltimore, and in various sec-

tions of the country, have patronized our columns year after year and now continue with us.

Our terms are reasonable—just and honest to our advertisers—and no higher than is necessary to successfully carry forward the magazine.

We believe the returns to those advertisers, who make known attractively what they have to sell, will be ample and will justify them in continuing with us.

The MARYLAND FARMER is now in its 28th year and is renewing its youth and usefulness. Examine its pages and be convinced of its value to you.

Peaches.

It seems to be very generally believed that the peach crop for the present year is in a condition that warrants all reports to be headed "Safe."

The cold weather so very late in this region, without a long enough period of mild weather intervening to force open buds, seems to have prevented any danger of injury from late frosts.

The predictions therefore from all quarters would promise a very large crop and correspondingly low prices. It has been some time since we were overwhelmed with a "peach glut," and we may be troubled with one this year.

Every Farmer Should Know.

All about the Horse, his diseases, and how to cure them.—All about Buggies, Carriages, etc., and where to buy them. The "Complete Horse Book" tells all this. Send ten cents, silver or stamps, to Pioneer Buggy Co., Columbus, O.

For the Orchard.

Old orchards of Apple and Pear trees should not be destroyed—never cut down a tree unless the object will warrant it.

To renovate an old orchard, first, break up, work and enrich the ground thoroughly, cut out portions of the top, and gradually graft for the best fruit. The first process will generally bring the original fruit and the grafts will come into bearing much sooner than a young tree. Time and labor are most of the expense in this work.

"Everybody's Paint Book," (see advertising columns), will tell you how to paint your house, or barn, or wagon, or farm implements, or anything else in the painting line. It is coming the time of year to fix up and this book will tell you how to do it.

For Potatoes.

About Potatoes.—Barnyard manure, unless thoroughly rotted and beyond the fermentation process, is not a potato fertilizer.

A good crop of potatoes requires a thoroughly well enriched soil, well worked and lightened by labor.

Cut the seed from good sized, fair and perfect potatoes, two strong eyes to each cutting.

Planting in the trench method is superior to any other for the production of crop; the level culture next; and then the hill culture.

Wood Ashes, whether leached or not leached, is one of the best of fertilizers for the potato crop, and should be broadcast over the entire surface.

For the Country.

Half the labor of mind and of hand, required from the mechanic or laborer in the city to support his family will give a royal support to the family in the country.

What the country gives more and better than any other place cannot be enumerated here; but the items are numerous and the benefits are great. Some of them are freedom of thought, the broadening of character, and the independence of feeling; the fresh air, the enjoyment of life in the green fields or the shady groves, the real delicacies of vegetables and fruit, of milk and eggs in perfect condition.

The great workers in city life will always find the working of land in the Country not a particle more troublesome than ordinary day labor; while the smallest commencement always gives promise of comfort during the future.

For The Maryland Farmer.

FACTS TO BE REMEMBERED.

Deep plowing should not turn up the barren subsoil. Plough only so deep as the good soil extends, and let the subsoil plow follow in the furrow to break and stir up the hard and barren soil, which will thus be prepared for future usefulness.

* * *

Many of the country churches during the past winter, have enjoyed sociable suppers, which have added considerable sums toward their support, besides the

pleasures of the gatherings. It is, however, a costly way to pay for the support of the churches.

* * *

Preparing the land for the crop is more than half the battle. After that, the character of the seed, and how it is sown, and how it is tended help in the final result.

* * *

The country roads in this section are not at present in a very desirable condition. It is a great pity that some definite system of improvement cannot be adopted, which would gradually give us good, permanent roads, not affected by the variable temperature of spring.

* * *

Look after the Hot-beds for early plants with all promptness. Delay in this means a loss which cannot easily be remedied.

* * *

The Kitchen garden is the most profitable piece of ground on any farm. If properly cared for, it gives a large part of the best living to the family for a considerable part of the year. It requires a small item in the way of labor, and a small expense in the way of seeds; and it supplies the table with both necessities and luxuries from early summer up to the freezing days of winter; and if care is taken, the celery, and cabbage, and parsnips of the garden will gladden the meals of winter and early spring.

* * *

A little paint adds hundreds of dollars to the value of a place if you wish to sell

it.—Only a few spare hours are needed to turn a repulsive building into an attractive and desirable one, if taste is used in choosing the paint and applying it.

* * *

A gate hanging by one hinge is a sermon to everyone who passes by your farm. Everyone can read its meaning and the comments are various and entertaining.

* * *

Good roads from the nearest city or village to your farm are worth more than any other one circumstance in insuring prosperity.

* * *

The great object before you is a happy and contented life. Never be willing to have anything interfere with the accomplishment of this object.

* * *

The live stock on the farm comprise cattle, horses, sheep, swine, poultry and bees. Do not fail to consider the poultry and bees as part of the farm stock.

* * *

You cannot make everything yourself; but you can make very useful things if you will use the otherwise idle moments to this purpose.

* * *

The growing and turning under of clover is the best means of permanently restoring and enriching land.

* * *

The best way to provide a happy life for your sons and daughters is to produce in them a love for country life.

How? Give them freely chickens and bees when young, larger animals as they advance in years, and personally increase their individual interests till they are fully identified with the farmer's life.

* * *

Early and often are the words that should be cherished when the potato bugs are about. They need not be forgotten when other insect pests are troublesome.

* * *

Beans, peas and indian corn are also of the nature of clover in respect to the enrichment of land, but are not equal to it for this purpose.

* * *

The estimate of our annual production of Poultry and eggs ranges from two to five hundred millions of dollars. It is immense even at the lowest estimate, and yet we import millions of dollars worth of eggs. We do not supply the demand.

* * *

A little slicking up of your place and surrounding it with good roads will add hundreds of dollars to the value of your farm. The appearance and the approach to your home are of great value.

* * *

You may not have money to expend in beautifying your home and its surroundings. Give it what you do have—your own labor. That will add immensely to its value when the popular verdict is rendered by the voice of your neighbors concerning it.

* * *

For intelligence, real knowledge and a

general understanding of what will make a contented and happy existence, we may always turn to the farmer's wife and daughters. Their views of human nature and its needs are never far astray.

* * *

All boys and girls like a dish of popcorn of a winter evening. Let the boys always grow a patch of it and let the girls enjoy the pleasure of popping it. Let them also have the benefit of selling what surplus may be in store. It always brings a high price in the city market.

Here is a Chance to Make Money.

I bought a machine for plating gold, silver and nickel, and it works splendid. When people heard about it they brought more spoons, forks and jewelry than I could plate. In a week I made \$23, and in a month \$97. My daughter made \$18 in five days. You can get a Plater for \$3 from the Lake Electric Co., Englewood, Ill., and will we trust, be benefitted as much as I have been.

A READER.

For The Maryland Farmer.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINES.

The past and the present give us reason to ask in great big letters and loud voice—WHY IS THIS?

Machines bought years ago are now in better condition to do good work, require less repairs and waste less time in stoppages, than the same machines bought at the present time.

Machines now last but two or three seasons—after that, they compare unfavorably with machines still in use made fifteen or twenty years ago to do the same work.

Do manufacturers design this? Be-

cause sold cheaper, are the machines designed to wear out quicker? Can you answer, Mr. Editor, some of these questions? W.

The Editor is not skilled in answering such conundrums.

For the Maryland Farmer.

DUCKS.

This species of poultry in many parts of our country is not appreciated by either the farmer or the city consumer. It is a fact that many believe it to be impossible to raise them successfully unless they can have a stream or a lake in which to sport themselves. It is also a fact that hosts in the city never think of using the eggs of ducks even when they are to be had at the same price as hen's eggs, which last are only about one half the size of duck's eggs.

It will require considerable hard work of our writers to disabuse the public of these prejudices and of that ignorance which has brought about the prejudices. Let us consider a few of the advantages of keeping ducks.

The Pekin ducks are our favorites. They are large, hardy, good on the table, good in the market, prolific layers, put on flesh rapidly, do not require either pond or stream, feathers are white and may take the place of goose feathers, easily satisfied with coarse food and mostly take care of themselves.

Consider all these things and then do not forget that every farm will be all the better for having a small flock of Pekin ducks.

They should have a shed so built that

they will be secure from all vermin, protected from all enemies, during the night, and may be kept in until about nine o'clock in the morning when they will generally leave their eggs behind them before they begin their day's tramp.

Ducks will lay about as well as the average hen and it is not hard to get at least a dollar's worth of eggs from each duck during the year.

When the little ducklings are first hatched keep them as dry as possible—they should have only what water they need to drink and should be kept out of the rain.

Feed them well, almost anything in grain and vegetables, and they will thrive. When they have arrived at that age that the dews and the rains will not hurt them and the fields have become green, let them run and they will almost support themselves.

Like geese, ducks may be picked and the feathers are quite as valuable although not as many from each individual.

Ducks' eggs should be given to hens, where incubators are not used, and they should have a yard by themselves after they are hatched until the hen and the ducklings become acquainted.

A Pekin duck makes a dainty dish for the table and is a change from chicken or turkey which is appreciated by those accustomed to use much poultry.

The man who opposes oleo; but deals at the same time in glucose syrup and molasses is a fraud. So is the man who loudly opposes the intemperate use of liquors, but is filling himself with the fumes and poison of tobacco.

For The Maryland Farmer.

PREVENTION OF DISEASE.

BY DR. CRACE-CALVERT.

It is fast becoming a settled belief that the great source of consumption is to be found in the milk and flesh of cattle.

Tuberculosis is demonstrated to be conveyed in the food from affected animals and to develop with considerable rapidity in many cases.

The theory of bacilli in such diseases also has considerable foundation and the battle of the physician for their destruction is the great work to be accomplished.

If anything can be done to destroy the source from which the disease originates of course the disease is prevented; and this is the most important step—going to the source.

From many crucial experiments and the failure of the Koch remedy in so many cases, that can hardly be a dependence.

It has opened a new field, however, for discoverers of medical science and we think the day is not far distant when the true remedy for tuberculosis will be discovered, and the treatment commencing with the animal will extirpate this disease.

This is a field where farmers can render medical science a great help, by learning and closely observing the diagnosis of tuberculosis in cattle and promptly reporting cases to skilled physicians.

Where the State has the proper officer appointed, in a Veterinary Surgeon, he is the person to be informed; but where none is appointed by the State, the Agri-

cultural College Presidents should receive the notice.

Once destroy the animal source of this disease and the remedy intelligently applied to the human species will soon give the race entire exemption from its attacks in all enlightened Countries.

For The Maryland Farmer.

HEALTH HABITS.

Feet warm and dry.

Clean teeth.

Moderate exercise.

Sufficient sleep in seasonable hours.

Good food in variety.

Some pleasant and profitable occupation.

Abstaining from all intemperate excitements.

Becoming apparel for comfort and appearance.

For the Maryland Farmer.

FAULT FINDING AND PRAISE.

BY AZILE.

Of all things that we should try to guard ourselves against, one of the greatest and worst, is that of fault finding. The habit of finding fault with everything that one comes in contact with is a very bad habit, to say the least, and one that will steal upon us unperceived and will grow upon us if we once give way to its influence. Put a guard upon your thoughts, and when you are tempted check yourself, take the second sober thought, and all will be well for that time at least.

Give praise to those who deserve it. Teach yourself to always look upon the bright side of life, and after a little training it will soon become a habit and a pleasure to give praise instead of remaining quiet or finding fault.

Don't try to go through this bright and beautiful world with a long face, or with a frown upon your face that only tends to cast a dark and gloomy shadow upon everything, whereas, we should have a smile for all, and only show the better part of our natures. Then it is, that things move along smoothly.

Praise goes a long way in the training of children. We should try and make it one of the greatest means by which we can train the child for good; we should not forget to reward it for well doing, with a warm smile and a word of praise. You can rest assured that that smile and loving word will remain in the loving heart when the head is bending low and the locks have turned to gray. How often, yes, how very often in the declining years do we call back from out of the depth of our memory the loved home of our childhood, the bright and loving smile of our parents, and the praise we always received for kind words or acts toward brother or sister. To give a word of praise costs but little; it is better to give too much praise than to give not at all. Begin your life by performing this duty, for it is a duty that we owe every one, and it will in after years be a comfort to the young man or woman, and we shall be richer for our words. Don't begrudge them, but give them with all your heart—not with an empty meaningless sound—but give generous praise to great and small.

For the Maryland Farmer.

The General Testimony.

We have received from Congressman Stockbridge "Report on the number and values of farm animals," statistician report '81, Dept. of Agr., and have traced one significant item through the different phases:

DOGS AND SHEEP.

New York says: "The keeping of sheep is now demanding general attention, and but for the ravages of dogs sheep husbandry would be doubled. * * * * On an average 5000 sheep are killed or rendered useless annually by dogs."

New Jersey says: "Owing to the ravages of dogs * * * the number of sheep is considerably decreased as compared with the number of one year ago."

Pennsylvania says: "The dog nuisance is a great draw back to Sheep-raising in this State.

North Carolina says: "There is a perceptible falling off in the number of sheep owing to * * * the ravages of dogs."

Arkansas says: "The ever present and over numerous dog is still a perpetual menace to this most promising and profitable of our industries, with small prospect of early relief."

Illinois says: "Only for the risk of loss and injury by sheep-killing dogs a flock would soon be found on most of the farms in the State."

Missouri: "Sheep raising is improving * * * the loss by dogs has been very large."

Maine says: "In the older Counties, in the vicinity of large towns, there is a decrease due to the ravages of dogs."

This will answer for one chapter on

this fruitful subject; but we should like much to receive further statistics concerning the "Dog Ravages," and cannot Mr. J. R. Dodge, Statistician, give them to us in full?

Allow no sheep-killing dog to live, and fine his owner and offer a reward for proof. Require a bond for damages. Allow large appraisal for damages. This would shut off that nuisance—a dog owned by an irresponsible man.—*Connecticut Farmer.*

Dogs are a nuisance nine times out of ten; and it should be allowed by law to shoot every one found out of place. No dog should be allowed to run at large. How many accidents are caused and lives lost by dogs running out and barking at passing teams. How many lives are lost by the bite of mad dogs. How many sheep are killed by dogs that run at large. How many sleepless hours are passed by us; on account of the barking of worthless curs; and how much vexation and annoyance, and mischief generally caused by dogs.—*N. E. Farmer.*

A New Fruit.

The Japanese wineberry has created quite a sensation by being introduced into fruit and ornamental gardens.

It somewhat resembles the raspberry, is a strong, vigorous grower, perfectly hardy in all positions without protection.

It will stand the cold Northern winters and hot Southern summers.

The leaves are all silvery white underneath and dark green above and the young shoots are covered with reddish brown hair or moss.

The fruit is borne in large clusters and

often 75 to 100 in a bunch. The berries are enclosed in a burr and when ripe they open and show a large berry of the brightest, glossy light scarlet color.

The burrs and stems are covered with a reddish moss like a moss rosebud.

The flavor of the fruit is distinct from any other and is sprightly, sweet and juicy, delicate and luscious, with no sour or disagreeable taste.

It makes a fine quality of wine.

It begins to ripen in July and continues in bearing for a long time. It is the most prolific of all berry bushes and is propagated from the tips.

COMPLETED TO DEADWOOD.

The Burlington Route, C., B. & Q. R. R., from Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis, is now completed, and daily passenger trains are running through Lincoln, Neb., and Custer, S. D., to Deadwood. Also to Newcastle, Wyoming. Sleeping cars to Deadwood.

Good Manners and Good Morals.

We have to fall back at last for the standard of good manners and good morals not upon the few but upon the many. The masses of the people are unquestionably more critical as to morality than any exclusive circle; and as to the essentials of good manners, they are to be found more securely among the many than among the few.

We have the high authority of Mr. Bronson Howard for saying that a Bowery audience is far quicker than a fashionable audience to frown on anything really immoral in a play.

More than one English nobleman has been forgiven in American drawing-

rooms for conduct, which would have caused him, if known, to be summarily ejected from a Rocky Mountain mining camp.

Howells, with his usual penetration, selects a rough Californian as the man who patrols the sleeping-car to be the self-appointed protector of the ladies.

An unprotected girl may travel by rail from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and meet with less rudeness or unkindness than she might encounter in a single evening, even from her own sex, at some very exclusive ball.

The little social circles have their value and a very great value; they furnish a part of the education and experience of social life. Where they happen to be under the leadership of a really cultivated and high-minded woman—like the late Mrs. John Jacob Astor, for instance,—they afford not merely a school of deportment, but of life. Where they are—as is quite as likely—under a different style of leadership, the results correspond.

"He despises me," said Ben Johnson, "because I live in an alley. Tell him his soul lives in an alley."

In all parts of the world there are women whose forms are covered with diamonds, but who still carry the habits of the alley in their souls.

In the long run, the safety of our national morals and manners does not lie in any of the little social circles, but in the average sense and breeding of the vast public from which those circles are constantly recruited.—*Harper's Bazar*.

Any green thing turned under—even a crop of weeds—does the land good.

SPRING FLOWERS.

BY PHOEBE CARY.

I know not which I love the most,
 Nor which the comliest shows,
 The timid, bashful violet,
 Or the royal hearted rose.

The pansy in her purple dress,
 The pink with cheeks of red,
 Or the faint, fair heliotrope, who hangs,
 Like a bashful mail, her head.

For I love and prize you one and all,
 From the least low bloom of spring,
 To the lily fair, whose clothes outshine
 The raiment of a king.

For the Maryland Farmer.

WOMAN'S INFLUENCE.

BY AZILE.

All men who avoid the society of women are apt to cultivate a taste for those things that do not have a refining influence. The young man who spends the most of his evenings among a class of men that have no higher motives than that of passing away the hours in the relating of stories unfit for the refined ears of his gentle loving sister, has wasted his time; yes, has more than wasted it. By spending these evenings in the society of refined and educated women, in the family circle, a great influence is exerted upon him for good.

Every man is bound to be respectful to women at all times and on that account women can reach the best elements of man's nature and in that way life becomes truly elevated and refined—something more than the catering to the gross and animal parts of our natures. This gives them something to think about besides

the passing away of time. Try it, young man, and see if it is not the better way. Take your dear loving sister into your confidence and thus elevate yourself and become a power for good among your young men friends, who may be away from the home influence. Again I say, spend a part of your evenings in the society of educated women.

Buttons Made Out Of Potatoes.

Great quantities of buttons are made out of potatoes. It is not generally known that if the substance of the common Irish potato be treated with certain acid it becomes almost as hard as stone, and can be used for many purposes for which horn, ivory and bone are employed. This quality of the potato adapts it to button making, and a very good grade of button is now made from the well known tuber. The potato button cannot be distinguished from others save by a careful examination, and even then only by an expert, since they are colored to suit the goods on which they are to be used, and are every whit as good looking as a button of bone or ivory. Their cheapness is a great recommendation and will no doubt lead to a much larger employment in the future.

A GIRL WORTH HAVING.

After reading Mr. Gray's experience in the plating business, I sent \$3 to the Lake Electric Co., Englewood, Ill. for a Plater, and cleared \$21 in a week. Isn't this pretty good for a girl? There is tableware and jewelry to plate at every house; then why should any person be poor or out of employment with such an opportunity at hand.

A SUBSCRIBER.

MARCH WORK.

Tree and vine pruning should be completed before growth commences. Peas for an early crop need to be got in as early as the ground can be worked. The wrinkled or sugar peas should be held until the ground warms a little. Those intending to raise onions by the new plan or starting the seeds in cold frames should have everything in readiness and get the seed in early, and have the young plants in readiness to set out as soon as the ground can be put in good order. The advantages claimed by this method are full rows, a longer season of growth and less expense in cultivation and keeping clean, the expense saved in the last item making up for the extra cost of transplanting. A much greater yield is claimed for the method. The preparation and sowing cannot be done too soon. The seeds of lettuce and early cabbage, cauliflower, celery, tomatoes and radish will need sowing at intervals as required, and the hotbeds and the forcing pits will command daily care.—*Vick's Magazine.*

MUSIC.

We have received from the popular house of Kunkel Brothers, St. Louis, Mo., the following new and taking music: Southern Jollification as played with immense success by Gilmore's Band. The Piano Solo, 60c composed by Chas. Kunkel.

The same author also has composed a fine piece—a Romance called True Hearts, price 60c.

I've been dreaming, is a ballad by Franklin E. Cook, published by the same

house, 50c—Editions come in c and in e flat.

We have received copies of Kunkel's Musical Review for February and March. Each contains about \$6.50 worth of Music. The yearly subscription is only \$3. The single number is \$1.

Etiquette is the invention of wise men to keep fools at a distance.—*Steele.*

Sleep, riches and health are illy enjoyed after they have been interrupted.—*Richter.*

There is no such thing as white lies; a lie is as black as a coal pit and twice as foul.—*Beecher.*

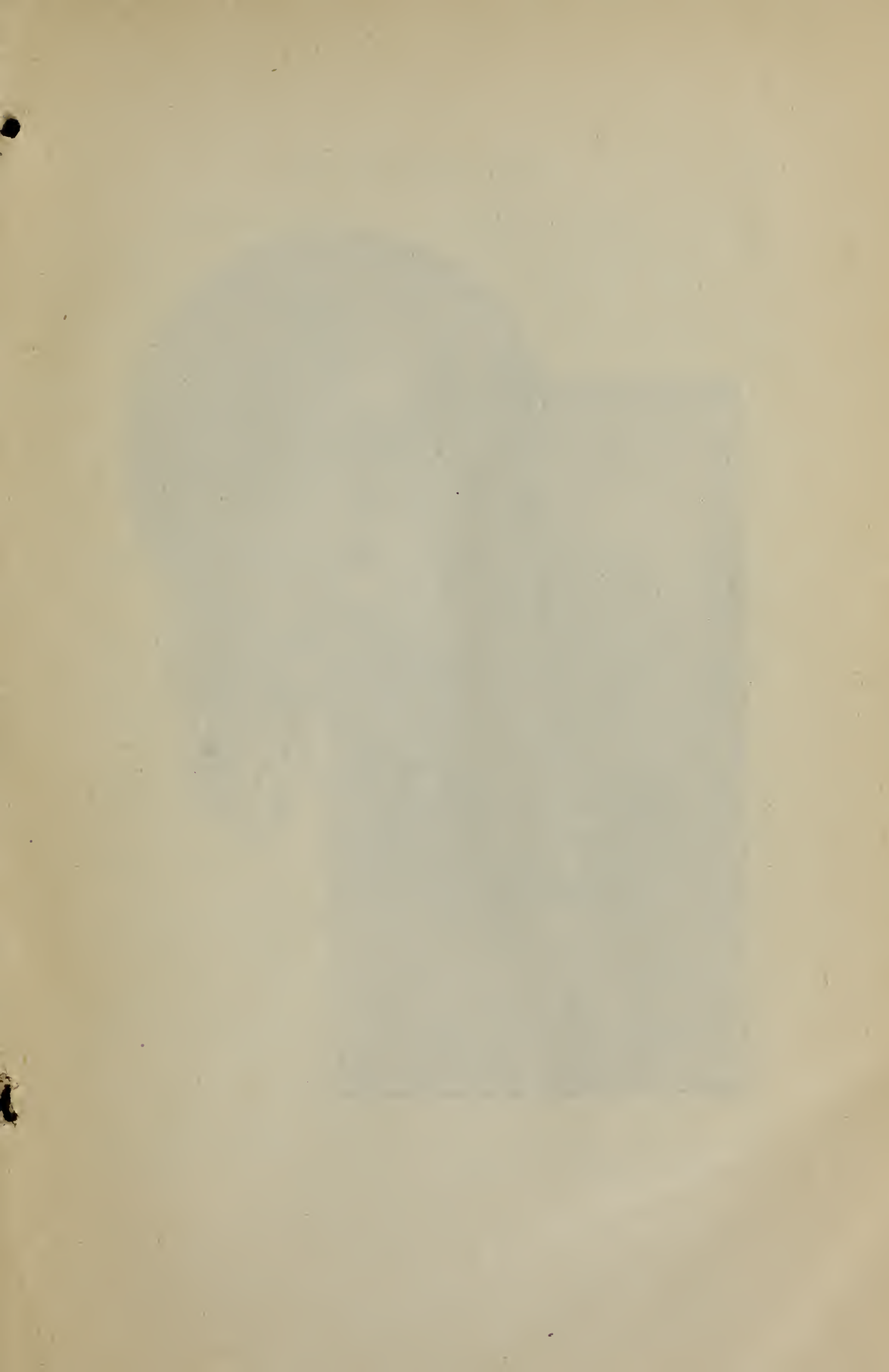
The habit of looking on the bright side of every event is worth more than a thousand pound a year.—*David Hume.*

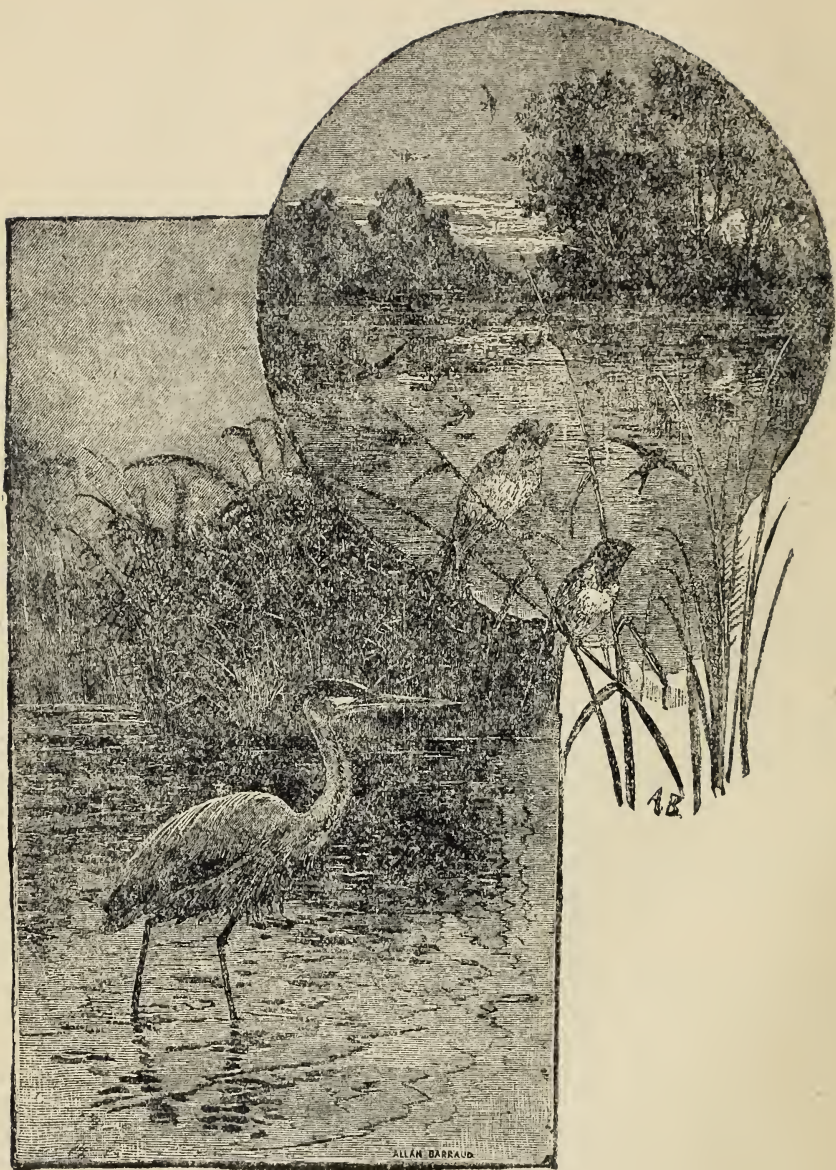
A man never feels the loss of things which it never occurs to him to ask for; he is just as happy without them.

That time is the worst employed which we give to regrets, unless we learn from them the lesson of the future.—*Duc de Levis.*

Patience is the ballast of the soul, that will keep it from rolling and tumbling in the greatest storm.—*Bishop Hopkins.*

A golden rule of life is to do just a little better than you agree to. Work over hours instead of under. Pay your note before maturity rather than after. Give over measure rather than under.—*Western Plowman.*





COMMON THINGS.

The bee from the clover bloom
Is ready to lift his wings;
I found him gathering honey
Out of the common things.

The bird to the maple bough
The twigs and the stubble brings;
He is building his love a cottage
Out of the common things.

The poet sits by himself—
What do you think he sings?
Nothing! he gets no music
Out of the common things.

HOW POLLY DROVE THE PIG
TO MARKET.

BY ANNA M. L. MOSELEY.

Mr. Freeman lived on a small farm near a village; and though he worked from morning until night he only earned enough to keep himself and family alive.

He had no rich friends or neighbors to help him, or even a good stout son: "but I'm blessed," he often said, when speaking of his daughter Mary, "ez few fathers are blessed in having an uncommon fine little gal. She's wuth twenty sich sons ez sum rich men bez got."

It was in the month of November when Mr. Freeman limped into the house with a severely sprained ankle.

"Well," he said at last, when he was comfortably seated in a rocking-chair with his lame foot resting upon another chair, "this is tu bad! I meant tu take Blacky tu market this afternoon. Mr. Blair said he'd buy the pig, an' I don't know enybody else who will buy it. Here I be, ez crippled ez an old rheumatic hoss."

"Never mind farther," said Polly, "there must be some way to get Blacky to Mr. Blair. Perhaps Mr. Gray would drive him or take him in his cart."

"Mr. Gray has gone to see his sick sister, Polly—twenty miles away. Old Joe Hapgood could do it; but he's tu unaccommodatin' tu du enybody a favor; 'twould dislocate his heart."

"Perhaps it would open his eyes, so's he could see things in a different light," said Mrs. Freeman, "if he would du just one favor or kindness tu somebody. He don't know how much real happiness he's a-losin'."

"An' I'm afeared he never will know," said Mr. Freeman. "He's gone on in his selfish ways so long that I don't know ez anythin' will ever change him. But the pig will eat his head off sure, ef we don't sell 'im pretty soon. He's so fat now that he can skucely stan' up."

"He'll be sold, never fear, father," said Polly, cheerfully.

"Well, ef he isn't you can't hev the nice, red hood I promised you."

"Then I'll try and do with the old hood. But I feel sure that the pig will be sold."

"Well, long ez you be so cheerful, I think I ought tu be," said Mr. Freeman, but he gave a sigh which went straight to Polly's tender little heart.

A tear was in her bright, blue eye, a few minutes after, as she stood by the pig-pen and wondered if it was possible for her to be able to take Blacky safely to the village.

"If there were no roads, and if people kept their gates shut, I could do it easily as a boy—I know I could," she soliloquized, with a little quaver in her voice

showed how anxiously she desired to execute her father's wishes.

"Poor, dear father, he'll be so disappointed if Blacky isn't sold. Yes, I'll do it; I'll take him to the village myself."

The next morning Polly let down the bars of the pen and turned the pig into the barn-yard to run around among the chickens and ducks. She had often fed him and he was very tame.

"I must go now as mother is sure to be busy in the house. She's so timid she never would consent to my going, neither would father; but I know I can manage one old fat pig with this basket of corn and this good hickory stick. When coaxing won't do, why then, I'll try driving."

She threw Blacky a nubbin of corn, and enticed him into the long lane that led to the highway.

Nearly half the distance to the village had been reached with little trouble, but through an open gate, piggy spied a turnip patch. Before Polly could "head him off" as the country people say, Blacky was inside the gate munching the green tops of the turnips. She tried to drive piggy out with her stick, but he only ran farther away.

"Oh dear!" exclaimed she, "what's the use of folks having gates if they don't keep them shut?"

"Well, we do try, little gal," said a pleasant voice a little way off; and on looking up Polly saw the owner of the turnip patch. "I guess you'd better give 'im a leetle o' that 'ere corn."

"Sure enough" said Polly greatly confused, but laughing as she spoke. "I

forgot the corn. I was so afraid he'd eat your turnips."

She soon coaxed Blacky into the road, and had no further trouble with him, not even while passing through a long strip of woods, until she came about a quarter of a mile from the village.

As she turned a bend in the road, she met a boy with two big dogs. "Now," thought Polly, "I'll have more trouble than ever, for here is Joe Green, and he's the meanest boy in the whole country. He'll be sure to drive the pig home again."

Polly was right in her surmises; for as soon as Joe came within speaking distance, he called out:—

"Hey, Polly pig driver, where did you find that porky? I bet a cookey you stole 'im. Take 'im by the ear, Nep! Catch him, Prince." And the next minute both dogs were chasing piggy over the road he had just traveled so laboriously.

"Oh, you unfeeling boy," cried poor, distressed Polly, while the tears rushed into her pretty blue eyes. Joe only laughed and shouted more vociferously at the dogs; but his merriment soon came to a close.

His brother Jack who was hunting a stray calf in a field, heard his insulting remarks to Polly, and coming up he said:

"Go fetch that pig back, or I'll give you such a drubbing that you'll see stars."

Joe was afraid of his brother, who was three years older, and as strong as hard work and fresh air could make a boy of sixteen. In a few minutes Polly was driving piggy on his final destination.

She reached Mr. Blair's in a short time, and won the old man's admiration who smilingly said:

"I'm going to give one more dollar for the pig than I said I'd give. You deserve it. You're the kind of girl I like."

Her eyes shone like twin stars as she thanked Mr. Blair for his kindness.

She drank a cup of water from "the old oaken bucket that hung in the well." The well is now dry, for that happened sixty years ago.

Polly's mother had missed her, but thought she had gone to her grandmother's house, which was not far away, and that she had been kept there by some unforeseen circumstance.

She was greatly surprised, as well as Mr. Freeman, when Polly walked into the kitchen, and related her adventures with the pig, and finished by giving her father the money.

"I'm proud uv my little gal," said her father, giving her a kiss, "an', if you're willin', I'll put the extra dollar Mr. Blair gave you in the bank. It'll be drawin' interest, an' you'll hev enough to buy a pair uv gloves when you git married."

Polly lived to marry Jack, and wear a pair of white kid gloves, bought with the money she earned driving the pig to market.—*Christian Register*.

The excesses of our youth are drafts on old age payable about thirty years after date.—*Colton*.

Send for our catalogue of Music as a premium to new subscribers.

For the Maryland Farmer.

Naming Country Roads.

BY AZILE.

The idea of Naming country roads is a good one; for who has not when riding in the country had to ask the way to a certain place? and been told to go to the forks of the road, then take the right hand road and go a ways, and then you will see another road, go down that and take the third road to the left, and so on, until you begin to think you are being left yourself. Now, if those roads had been named, how easy to have directed to go to such a road, the same as you are told in the city. Besides, how much pleasanter it is to live upon some well named Avenue than upon a country lane. The ladies of our country are fond of having these things, and as I am one of them, I say, let's have them named.

To Discover a Marked Coin.

Mark a coin, say with a star or cross, and hide it. Soon afterwards borrow a coin of the same date and cost, and say that, to prevent any suspicion rising of your substituting another coin, you will mark it. Do so with the same token as you scratched on the first. Juggle away coin number two, and, by any means, indicate where the other is. Whoever goes for it will share in the general surprise when they see what appears to be the identical one.

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AND WILL PAY

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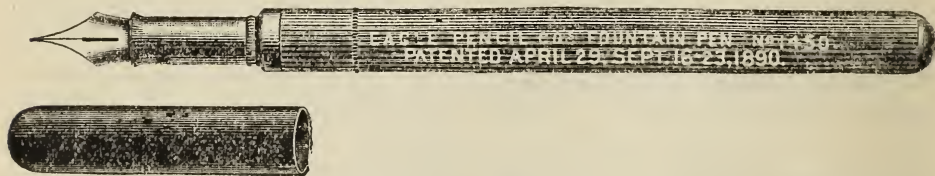
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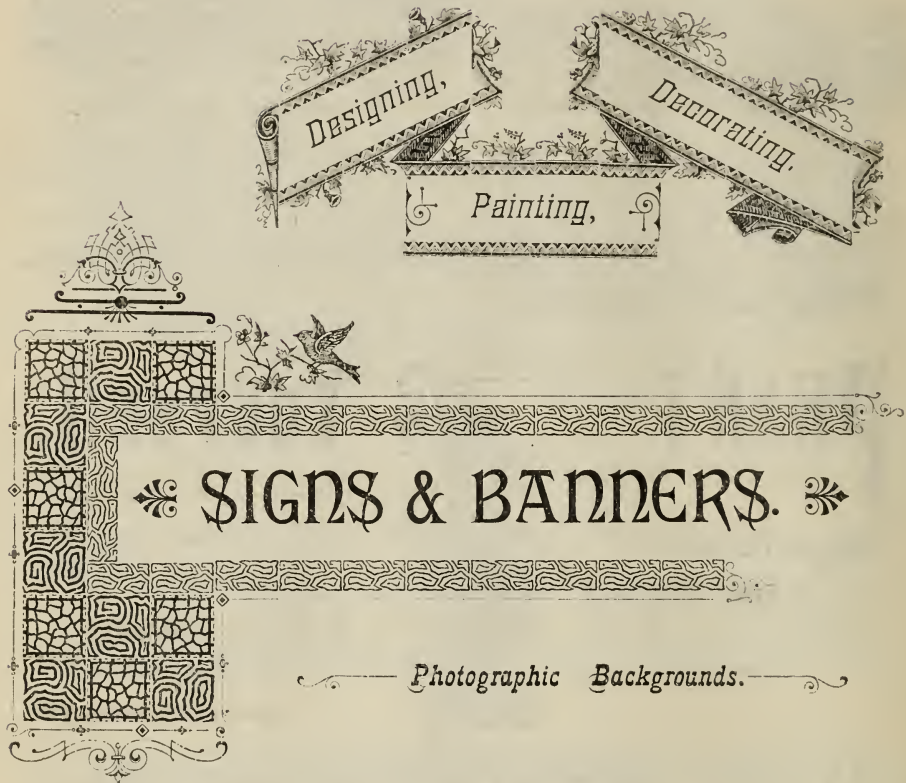
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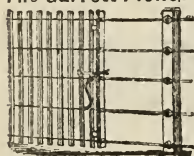
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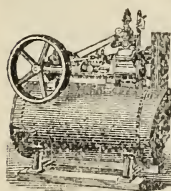
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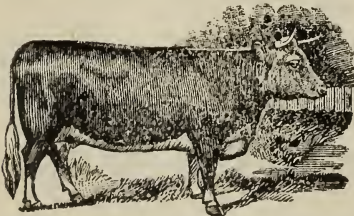
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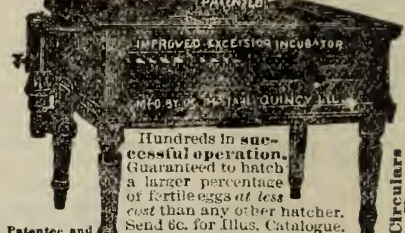
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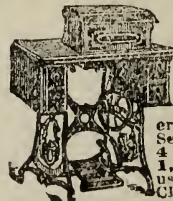
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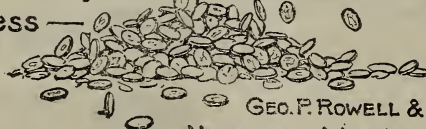
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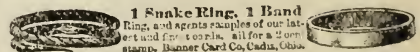
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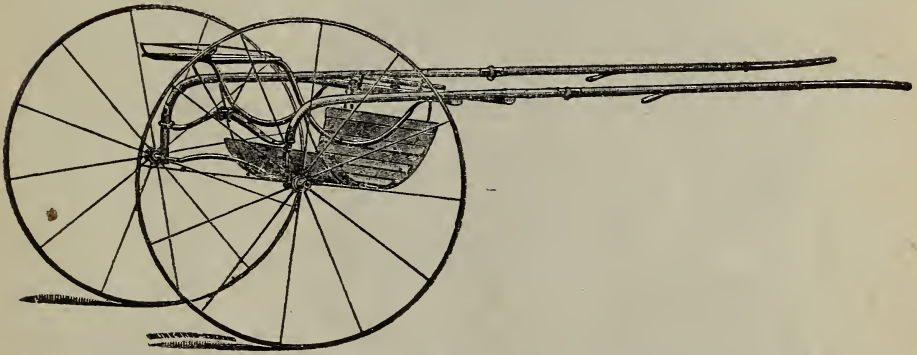
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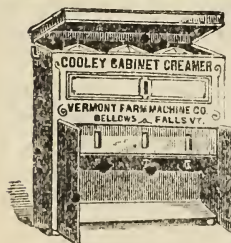
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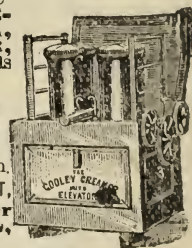
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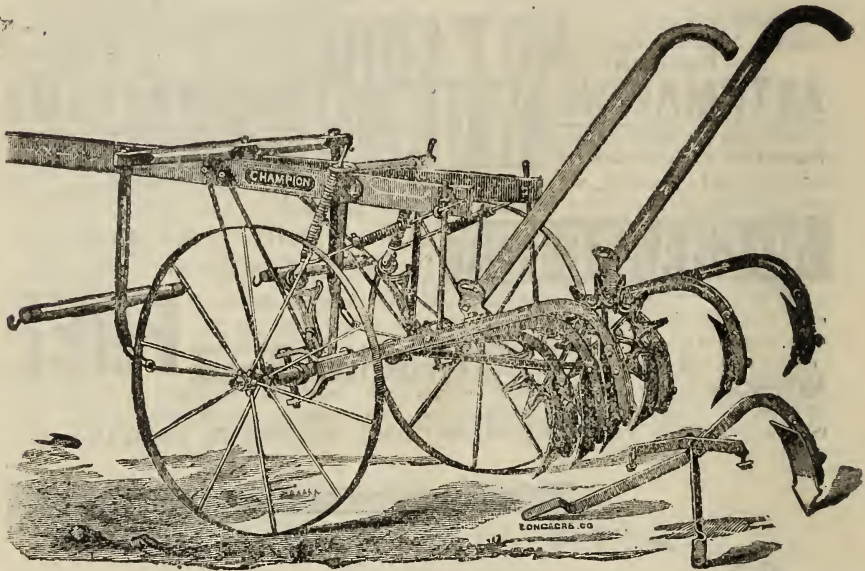
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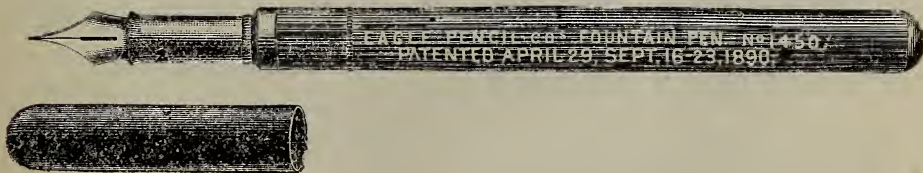
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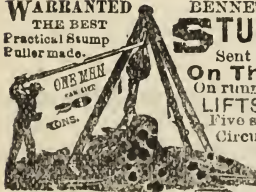


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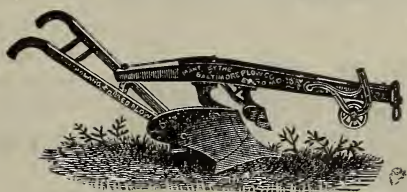
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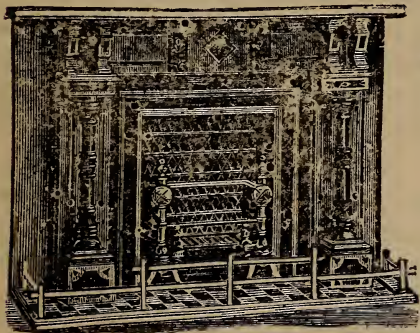
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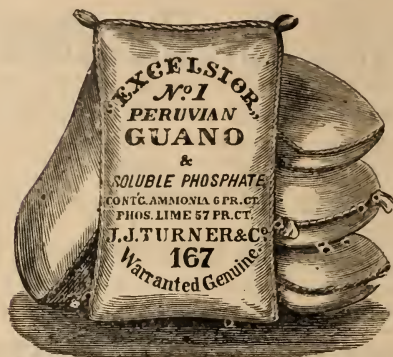
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